

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Greece

Post: Rome

Stone Fruit Annual 2012

Report Categories:

Stone Fruit

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Report Highlights:

Greece is the 3rd largest apricot producer in the EU-27, after Italy and France. According to industry estimates, MY 2012/13 Greek apricot production is forecast to climb significantly by 48 percent, as weather conditions have been good. Greece is the third largest producer of peaches in the EU-27, after Italy and Spain.

I. PEACHES AND NECTARINES

Table 1: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Peaches and Nectarines	2010	2011	2012
	Estimates 2010/2011	Estimates 2011/2012	Forecast 2012/2013
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Production	42,600	42,600	42,600
Production	681,300	630,000	675,000
Imports	4,308	4,053	4,000
Total Supply	685,608	634,053	679,000
Fresh Dom. Consumption	49,818	171,053	186,300
Exports	111,890	103,000	102,700
For Processing	404,000	340,000	370,000
Losses & Withdraws	120,000	20,000	20,000
Total Distribution	685,608	634,053	679,000

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

PRODUCTION

Greece is the third largest producer of peaches in the EU-27, after Italy and Spain. Greek farms are typically four to five hectares, much smaller than the average size in either the EU or the United States. According to industry estimates, there are approximately 42,600 hectares currently cultivated for peaches and nectarines. The main producing areas include six territories (Imathia, Pella, Pieria, Kozani, Larissa, and Kilkis) of Central Macedonia and Thessaly, located in northern Greece. The peach production area is located in an active hail belt that stretches from the Iberian Peninsula to northern Greece. Most of the crop is harvested in June and July.

MY 2012/13 fresh freestone peach and nectarine production is forecast at 305,000 MT—an increase of 5.2 percent compared to the previous year. MY 2012/13 clingstone production is forecast to increase by near 9 percent.

CONSUMPTION

Greek nectarine production is destined mainly for the fresh market; freestone peaches are used for fresh consumption, and clingstone peaches are predominantly used in processing (although some are consumed fresh).

TRADE

Greece is an important exporter of fresh (and canned) peaches. Russian, Romanian, and Ukrainian markets continue to be the main destinations for Greek stone fruit exports. Greece imports small amounts of fresh peaches and nectarines. Italy and Spain remain the main suppliers to the Greek market.

II. APRICOTS

Table 2: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Apricots	2010	2011	2012
	Estimates 2010/2011	Estimates 2011/2012	Forecast 2012/2013
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Production	5,500	5,500	6,000
Production	74,000	48,500	73,500
Imports	482	650	650
Total Supply	74,482	49,150	74,150
Fresh Dom. Consumption	16,635	8,925	20,225
Exports	17,147	13,550	13,500
For Processing	40,700	26,675	40,425
Total Distribution	74,482	49,150	74,150

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

PRODUCTION

Greece is the third largest apricot producer in the EU-27, after Italy and France. Greek apricots are grown in Crete, Thessaly, and Peloponnesos, located in southern Greece. According to industry estimates, MY 2012/13 Greek apricot production is forecast to climb significantly by 48 percent, as the weather conditions have been good. The apricot harvest begins in June and lasts until July. Tirinthos, Aurora, Bebekou, and the sweet Diamantopoulou are the leading apricot varieties grown in Greece.

CONSUMPTION

MY 2012/13 Greek apricot consumption is forecast to climb significantly, driven by the increased production. Most of the apricot production (50–60 percent) goes to the canning industry. Approximately 20 percent is destined for the fresh market, while a small percentage is processed into puree and concentrate. The “Bebekou” variety is predominantly used in processing.

TRADE

Fresh and canned apricots are sold either in the local market or exported to other EU markets. Germany and Romania continue to be the main destinations for Greek apricot exports. Greece imports small amounts of apricots from Turkey, Italy, and Germany.

III. CHERRIES

Table 3: Fresh Cherries - Production, Supply and Demand (MT)

Cherries	2010	2011	2012
	Estimates 2010/2011	Estimates 2011/2012	Forecast 2012/2013
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Production	8,200	8,200	8,200
Production	50,160	43,405	46,000
Imports	496	295	290
Total Supply	50,656	43,700	46,290
Fresh Dom. Consumption	39,544	32,010	34,450
Exports	8,604	9,520	9,540
For Processing	2,508	2,170	2,300
Total Distribution	50,656	43,700	46,290

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

PRODUCTION

MY 2012/13 Greek cherry season is forecast to be satisfactory, as the weather conditions have been good. Pella and Imathia are the main producing areas.

CONSUMPTION

MY 2012/13 Greek demand for cherries is likely to remain steady. Greek cherries production is mainly destined for the fresh market, with a small percentage processed into jams, spoon sweets, and the Vissinada, a traditional sour cherry concentrate mixed with iced water.

TRADE

Netherlands and Germany continue to be the main destinations for Greek cherries exports. Greece imports small amounts of cherries from Spain and Turkey.

Abbreviations and definitions used in this report:

MY Marketing year: June/May

Peaches/nectarines: HS Code 080930

Apricots: HS Code 080910

Cherries: HS Code 080920

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

Ha Hectare; 1 ha = 2.471 acres